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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1942

KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, S.Devon.

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2196

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Council Offices,
Plympton.

Clerk to M.O.H., Miss Prowse.

Telephone: Plympton 2244

From September, 1942 Manor House,
Kingsbridge.

Clerk to M.O.H., Miss Hendrickson

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2004

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Council Offices, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, S.Devon.

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2122.

KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

for the YEAR ending DEC.31st, 1942

Medical Officer of Health: DR. W. C. SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: DR. W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: E. GELLENDER, A.R.S.I.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS TREEBY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1942.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) - 1147½

Population - The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population - 3437.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to the Rate Books - 960.

Rateable Value - £20,943.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - (estimated) £85.

The town of Kingsbridge is the market centre of an agricultural and highly attractive country district, and its inhabitants are mainly engaged in commerce. Unemployment has not had any prejudical effect on the general health of the community.

The social conditions are generally favourable to health and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births - Total, 46; Male, 25; Female, 21.
Live (legitimate) - Male, 22; Female, 19.
Live (illegitimate) - Male, 3; Female, 2.

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population - 13.38

STILL BIRTHS - Male, 2; Female, 1; Total, 3. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 61.22

DEATHS - 43. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 12.51

Deaths (from Puerperal Causes) - Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births - nil.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - Nil.
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 1
Deaths from Measles (all ages) - Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) - Nil.

The conditions of occupation and of environment on the whole have not had a prejudical influence on the general health or mortality.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural Districts, Assistant County Medical Officer, and School Medical Inspector, Devon County Council).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional). One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN. - Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin and Scarlatinal Serum. Material is also supplied for the immunisation of children of the district against Diphtheria free of cost.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district:-

Men's ward	...	6 beds
Women's ward	...	6 beds
Children's Cots	...	2
Private wards.	...	2 - 1 bed each.

It is supported by voluntary effort.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL - None in the district, but by arrangement with the Kingsbridge Rural District Council and with the Plymouth City Council, infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to the Modbury Auxiliary Isolation Hospital and the Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, respectively.

The arrangements referred to are provisional only, pending the completion and adoption of a Scheme under Section 63, of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of hospital accommodation for this part of the Administrative County and which Scheme is in the course of preparation.

NURSING IN THE HOME. - The Kingsbridge Nursing Association is doing excellent work.

MIDWIVES. - The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. - There is a Centre in Kingsbridge which is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month.

No. of openings.	Mothers present	Infants present	Children 1-5 years
24	601	265	486

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1942.

Disease	Total cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	1	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Erysipelas	3	1	-
TOTALS	6	3	-

Scarlet Fever shows a decrease, only 2 cases being notified. The disease continued to be of a mild character.

Diphtheria I would again emphasise that in the treatment of Diphtheria, serum should be given at the earliest possible moment, and preferably in one adequately large dose.

The doctor should never wait for the laboratory report before giving antitoxin if he considers on clinical grounds that the patient may be suffering from Diphtheria.

Every attempt should be made by means of bus or passenger train services, special messenger, or by personal delivery to ensure that the swab reaches the laboratory in as short a time as possible after it is taken.

It is important to obtain immediate medical advice in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

Hospital cost.-				
	Scarlet Fever	£9	7	6
	Diphtheria	£4	10	0
	Erysipelas	£3	7	6

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1942.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
Age Period	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 - 10 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 20 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
25 - 35 years	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 70 years	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
70 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	3	-	-	1	1	1	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER - The water supply is satisfactory in all respects.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE - The system generally is satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING - It is pleasing to report that the Authority has been able to continue its twice weekly collection of refuse.

HOUSING - Overcrowding continues, though to a less extent than in the previous year.

FOOD SUPPLY - The following are details of unfit food which was destroyed:-

Pork	22 lbs
Offals	26 lbs
Mutton	55½ lbs
Other unfit foods	4¾ cwt.
Various tinned foods	198 tins

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION - Investigation is made as soon as possible into allcases of infectious diseases notified and disinfection carried out by formaldehyde spray.

No. of houses disinfected.

Notifiable infectious diseases 4.

Nuisances:-	No. of complaints	4
	No. of informal notices served and effective.	4

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Defects:-	Insufficient sanitary accommodation	3
	Remedied	1

Your obedient Servant,

W.C.SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.